

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic photoreceptor in which electrostatic latent images are formed by exposure of a surface charged in a non-contact manner with a light in accordance with image information, toner images are formed by development of the electrostatic latent images, and obstacles including a toner are removed from the surface after the toner images are transferred onto a transfer material, wherein

a creep value  $C_{It}$  is 2.70% or more and ~~the~~ Vickers hardness (HV) at the surface is ~~20  $\leq$  HV  $\leq$  or more and 25 or less~~ in a case where a maximum indenting load of 30 mN is loaded to the surface under a circumstance at a temperature of 25°C and at a relative humidity of 50%.

2. (Original) The electrophotographic photoreceptor of claim 1, wherein the creep value  $C_{It}$  is 3.00% or more.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an electrophotographic photoreceptor in which ~~the a~~ surface is charged in a non-contact manner and a creep value  $C_{It}$  is 2.70% or more in a case where a maximum indenting load of 30 mN is loaded to the surface under a circumstance at a temperature of 25°C and at a relative humidity of 50% and ~~the~~ Vickers hardness (HV) at the surface is ~~20  $\leq$  HV  $\leq$  or more and 25 or less~~,

charging means for charging the surface of the electrophotographic photoreceptor in a non-contact manner,

exposure means for forming electrostatic latent images by exposure of the charged surface of the electrophotographic photoreceptor by a light in accordance with image information,

developing means for developing the electrostatic latent images to form toner images,

transfer means for transferring the toner images from the surface of the electrophotographic photoreceptor to a transfer material, and

cleaning means for cleaning the surface of the electrophotographic photoreceptor after transfer of the toner images.

4. (Original) The image forming apparatus of claim 3, wherein the creep value  $C_{Ir}$  in the electrophotographic photoreceptor is 3.00% or more.